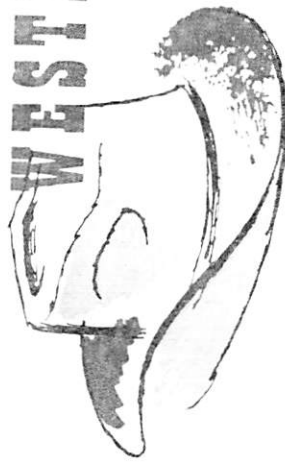
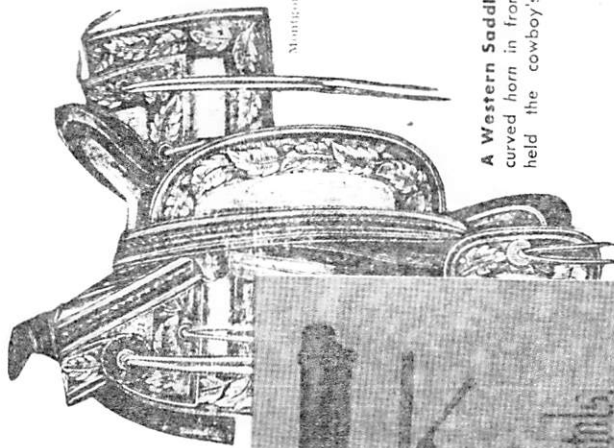


# WESTERN FRONTIER LIFE



**Famous Names** of the West included John Stetson, maker of wide-brimmed hats, and Sam Colt, whose pistol was "the gun that won the West."



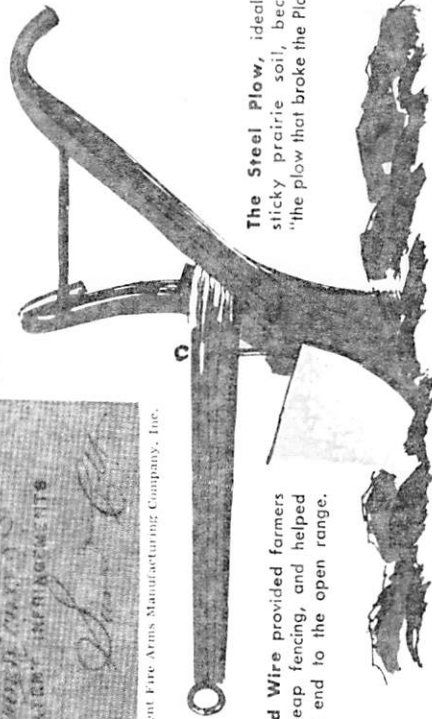
Montgomery Ward

**A Western Saddle** had a curved horn in front, which held the cowboy's lariat.



**Colt's Patent Revolving Pistol**  
BEWARE OF COUNTERFEITS & PATENT INFRINGEMENTS

Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company, Inc.



**The Steel Plow**, ideal for sticky prairie soil, became "the plow that broke the Plains."



**Barbed Wire** provided farmers with cheap fencing, and helped put an end to the open range.

**WESTERN FRONTIER LIFE** marks one of the most exciting chapters in American history. The settlement of the West represented the dreams of gold-hungry prospectors, and of homesteaders whose back-breaking labor transformed barren plains into fields of grain. It is the story of cowboys and the open range. It is the drama of Indians and outlaws, of the trains and stagecoaches they attacked, and of the citizens who brought order to the frontier. It is a living tradition that symbolizes to men and women everywhere the American achievement of taming a wild and beautiful land.

The far western frontier appeared about 1850, and vanished about 1890. Adventurous settlers had crossed the Appalachian Mountains during the 1700's and pushed through the Cumberland Gap in the 1770's. They built homes along the Mississippi River a few

years later. Traders and scouts reached the Pacific Coast in the early 1800's. But the area west of the Mississippi—"the last frontier"—did not attract many settlers until after 1850. The final period of western settlement lasted from 1850 to 1890. For the complete story of western expansion in the United States, see **WESTWARD MOVEMENT**.

The western frontier produced many colorful figures. Some, such as Jesse James and Billy the Kid, symbolize outlaws who "died with their boots on." Others, such as Wyatt Earp and "Wild Bill" Hickok, gained fame as fearless defenders of law and order. "Buffalo Bill" Cody—scout, Indian fighter, and showman—probably did more than anyone else to create interest in the old West. Other men, though less well-known, did more to develop the area itself. Charles Goodnight, a fiery

Apple Peelers





*Corn Grinder  
courtesy Bill Baum*